

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deletions are indicated by strikethrough and/or double brackets, and additions are indicated by underscoring.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A battery mounting structure for use in a small watercraft comprising a vessel body having a hull comprising a lower portion of the vessel body, and a deck for covering placement on top of the hull, an engine disposed in the vessel body, a drive shaft extending rearwardly from the engine for driving a propeller, and a drive shaft supporting box for supporting the drive shaft at the midsection thereof,

said battery mounting structure comprising a battery support tray for supportively holding a battery thereon and a contacting member integrally formed with said battery support tray for contacting part of a drive shaft supporting box;

wherein at least part of said battery mounting structure is adapted for placement on top of the drive shaft supporting box;

and wherein the contacting member comprises a contoured alignment section for matingly engaging a corresponding surface of the drive shaft supporting box when the battery support tray is placed thereon.

2. (original) The battery mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising at least one securing strap for use in securing said battery to said battery support tray.

3. (original) A battery mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising structure for

accommodating any one of a number of different-sized batteries.

4. (original) A battery mounting structure of claim 1, wherein said battery tray comprises a plurality of hooks to receive securing straps thereon to secure a battery to said battery mounting structure.

5. [Canceled]

6. (original) The battery mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising a platform section integrally formed with said battery tray, said platform section configured to for supporting a magnet box thereon.

7. (original) The battery mounting structure of claim 6, further comprising at least one reinforcing rib extending between said battery tray and said platform section.

8. (currently amended) A method of mounting a battery in a personal watercraft having a longitudinal axis, said method comprising the steps of:

a) installing a battery mounting apparatus in said personal watercraft behind an engine and above a drive shaft support box of said watercraft, wherein the battery mounting apparatus comprises a support tray having a contoured alignment section comprising a projection which matingly engages a corresponding recess of the drive shaft supporting box;

b) placing a battery on [[a]] the support tray of said battery mounting apparatus, and
c) placing battery restraints on said battery to hold it in place on said support tray,

whereby said battery is emplaced proximate the longitudinal axis of said watercraft.

9. (new) A method of mounting a battery in a personal watercraft having a longitudinal axis, said method comprising the steps of:

a) installing a battery mounting apparatus in said personal watercraft behind an engine and above a drive shaft support box of said watercraft, wherein the battery mounting apparatus comprises a support tray having a contoured alignment section which matingly engages a corresponding surface of the drive shaft supporting box, the battery support tray being placed in the watercraft such that a first part of said battery mounting structure rests on top of the drive shaft supporting box, and a second part of said battery mounting structure rests on top of an interior surface of a hull of the watercraft;

b) placing a battery on the support tray of said battery mounting apparatus, and

c) placing battery restraints on said battery to hold it in place on said support tray, whereby said battery is emplaced proximate the longitudinal axis of said watercraft.

10. (new) A small watercraft, comprising:

a vessel body having a hull comprising a lower portion of the vessel body, and a deck for covering placement on top of the hull;

an engine disposed in the vessel body;

a drive shaft extending rearwardly from the engine for driving a propeller, and a drive shaft supporting box for supporting a medial portion of the drive shaft, the drive shaft supporting box comprising side walls which are laterally spaced from the hull of the watercraft, the drive shaft supporting box further comprising an upper surface; and

a battery mounting structure comprising:

a battery support tray for supportively holding a battery thereon, and
a contacting member integrally formed with said battery support tray for
contacting the drive shaft supporting box, wherein the contacting member comprises a
contoured alignment section which matingly engages a corresponding surface of the
drive shaft supporting box;
wherein a first part of said battery mounting structure rests on top of the drive shaft
supporting box, and a second part of said battery mounting structure rests on top of an interior
surface of the hull.

11. (new) A small watercraft, comprising:

a vessel body having a hull comprising a lower portion of the vessel body, and a deck
for covering placement on top of the hull;
an engine disposed in the vessel body;
a drive shaft extending rearwardly from the engine for driving a propeller, and a drive
shaft supporting box for supporting a medial portion of the drive shaft, the drive shaft supporting
box comprising side walls which are laterally spaced from the hull of the watercraft, the drive
shaft supporting box further comprising an upper surface having a recess formed therein; and
a battery mounting structure comprising:
a battery support tray for supportively holding a battery thereon, and
a contacting member integrally formed with said battery support tray for
contacting the drive shaft supporting box, wherein the contacting member comprises a
contoured alignment section which matingly engages a corresponding surface of the
drive shaft supporting box;

wherein the contoured alignment section of the contacting member comprises a projection extending downward from an underside surface of the battery support tray, the projection fitting into the recess in the upper surface of the drive shaft supporting box, so as to help maintain the position of battery mounting structure on the drive shaft supporting box.

12. (New) The small watercraft of claim 11, wherein a first part of said battery mounting structure rests on top of the drive shaft supporting box, and a second part of said battery mounting structure rests on top of an interior surface of the hull.

13. (New) A battery mounting structure for use in a small watercraft comprising a vessel body having a hull comprising a lower portion of the vessel body, and a deck for covering placement on top of the hull, an engine disposed in the vessel body, a drive shaft extending rearwardly from the engine for driving a propeller, and a drive shaft supporting box for supporting the drive shaft at the midsection thereof,

said battery mounting structure comprising a battery support tray for supportively holding a battery thereon and a contacting member integrally formed with said battery support tray for contacting part of a drive shaft supporting box;

wherein at least part of said battery mounting structure is adapted for placement on top of the drive shaft supporting box;

wherein the contacting member comprises a contoured alignment section for matingly engaging a corresponding surface of the drive shaft supporting box when the battery support tray is placed thereon, said contoured alignment section comprising a projection extending downwardly from a lower surface of said battery support tray, for matingly engaging a recess of

the drive shaft supporting box.

14. (New) The battery mounting structure of claim 13, further comprising a platform section integrally formed with said battery tray and configured to support a magnet box thereon.

15. (New) The battery mounting structure of claim 1, wherein said contacting member comprises a rib extending downwardly from a lower surface of said battery support tray, and wherein said rib comprises a side surface adapted for abuttingly contacting a side surface of said drive shaft supporting box when said battery mounting structure is installed in said watercraft.

16. (New) The battery mounting structure of claim 15, wherein said rib extends downwardly below an outboard portion of said battery support tray, and is absent below an inboard portion of said battery support tray.